

Annual Meeting History, American Printing House for the Blind

Summary:

The American Printing House for the Blind was chartered in Louisville, Kentucky by the Kentucky Legislature in January 1858. The charter required an annual meeting and the language in the charter is why APH has an annual meeting today. The charter named a founding board of trustees and named the heads of the state schools for the blind as ex-officio members. In 1879, Congress passed the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind, which again named the heads of the schools as an ex-officio board. The APH Trustees met in August 1879 to accept the responsibilities placed on the company by the federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind.

The first annual meeting under the auspices of the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind took place in 1880 at the Kentucky School for the Blind, on August 16-17, at the regular meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind. The APH Trustees located in Kentucky were constituted as the Executive Finance Committee, and given full administrative authority. The same meeting adopted bylaws requiring an annual meeting of the trustees in August each year. This corresponded with the end of the company's fiscal year, which ran July 1-June 30.

From 1880-1898, the full board of trustees only met in reality every two years, at the biennial meetings of the American Association of Educators for the Blind. In the off years, the local board met at the company's bank, with only occasional attendance by ex-officio board members. In 1900, this practice was curtailed, as meetings of Kentucky corporations, it was discovered, could not be held out of state. Going forward, ex-officio board members had to travel to Louisville to influence policy.

APH Bylaws passed by the board of trustees in 1934 read "The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the American Printing House for the Blind, for the election of officers and other business, shall be held in Louisville, Kentucky, in the month of July or in the month of August."

In 1948, the federal government changed its fiscal year to October 1-September 30, and APH shifted its annual meeting to the fall to match. From the 1948 Annual Report, "The change in the date of the Annual Meeting from summer to fall, which permits more of the superintendents to attend, should also greatly increase our mutual understanding." This is why the annual meeting has been held in October or November ever since.

From 1880-1978, the annual meeting was a one-day affair, initially just to approve expenditures and elect officers, which an occasional policy discussion. In 1979, the meeting evolved into a three day conference, including committee meetings, workshops, product demonstrations, meetings of allied groups, and public roundtable discussions.

The first virtual annual meeting occurred in 2020, as a result of the Covid epidemic, but the event returned to a live meeting format in 2022.

Documentation

From the 1858 Act to Establish the American Printing House for the Blind:

Sec. 2. The trustees shall elect annually a president, a treasurer, and a secretary, who shall hold their offices until their successors shall be elected and duly qualified. Said trustees may prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of said officers.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of said trustees to hold an annual meeting, and other stated meetings, at such times as they may appoint, and such special meetings as may be called by the president. It shall be the duty of the trustee first named in this act to call the first meeting of the board within twenty days from and after the approval of this act.

1882: The APH Board of Trustees met in Janesville, WI on August 16 at the regular meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

1884: The APH Board of Trustees met in St. Louis, MO in August at the regular meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

1886: The APH Board of Trustees met in New York, NY, July 6, at the regular meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

July 5, 1887, Citizens National Bank, Louisville.

September 3, 1889, Louisville.

1890: Board meets at the Illinois School for the Blind, Jacksonville, IL, at the regular meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

August 28, 1891, Louisville Trust Company, Louisville.

July 5, 1892—Board meets at the Ontario Institution for the Blind, Ontario, CAN, at the regular meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

July 15, 1893, Louisville Trust Company, Louisville.

1894: Board meets at Chautauqua, New York, at the regular meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

October 15, 1895, Louisville Trust Company, Louisville.

July 15, 1896: Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind, Pittsburgh, PA, AAIB Meeting.

July 31, 1897, Citizen's National Bank, Louisville.

July 13, 1898: Lansing, MI, AAIB Meeting.

June 29, 1899, Citizen's National Bank, Louisville.

July 1900-1923: Meeting in early July at APH or KSB

July 8, 1924, Country Club, Louisville.

July 21, 1925 at APH offices, Louisville, KY.

July 2, 1926 at the Country Club, Louisville, KY.

July 5, 1927 at APH offices, Louisville, KY.

July 2, 1928 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 7, 1930 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 2, 1931, Louisville, KY.

July 6, 1932, Louisville, KY.

July 3, 1933 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 28, 1935, Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, KY.

July 1, 1936 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 6, 1937 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 2, 1938 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 1, 1939 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 12, 1941 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 25, 1945 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 2, 1946 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

July 8, 1947 at APH, Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY.

November 16, 1948 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 25, 1949 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

November 14, 1950 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 30, 1951 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

November 11, 1952 at the Seelbach Hotel, Louisville.

November 10, 1953 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

November 9, 1954 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 25, 1955 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 23, 1956 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 28, 1958 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 29, 1959 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 2, 1960 at the Pendennis Club, Louisville.

October 30, 1962, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 29, 1963, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 20, 1964, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 19, 1965, Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 25, 1966, Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 24, 1967, Louisville.

October 29, 1968, Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 21, 1969, Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 27, 1970, Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, KY.

October 26, 1971, Stouffer's Inn, Louisville, KY.

October 17, 1972, Stouffer's Inn, Louisville, KY.

October 30, 1973, Galt House, Louisville, KY.

October 29, 1974, Galt House, Louisville, KY.

November 11, 1975, Galt House, Louisville, KY.

October 19, 1976, Galt House, Louisville, KY.

October 18, 1977, Galt House, Louisville, KY.

November 8, 1978, Galt House, Louisville, KY.

October 27-30, 1979, Stouffer's Inn, Louisville, KY. **Saturday Workshops.** Possibly as part of 100th anniversary of the Act.

October 11-14, 1980, Galt House, Louisville, KY. **Workshops held on Saturday and Sunday.**

October 31-November 3, 1981, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville.

October 2-5, 1982, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville.

October 15-18, 1983, Seelbach Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Technology Applied in Education of the Blind

October 20-23, 1984, Seelbach Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Innovation in Education of the Visually Handicapped

October 5-8, 1985, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville.

October 26, 1986, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville.

October 24-27, 1987, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville.

October 15-17, 1988, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Addressing the Needs of the 90s

October 21-23, 1989, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville. Theme: New Directions

October 12-15, 1990, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Wings of the Future

October 12-14, 1991, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Textbooks—Equal Access to Education Implies Equal Access to Information

October 9-12, 1992, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Vision Services and America 2000

October 15-18, 1993, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Opening Doors

October 14-17, 1994, Brown Hotel, Louisville.

October 12-16, 1995, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Sparing on the Wings of Change

October 10-14, 1996, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Ethics

October 15-19, 1997, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Partnerships—Going New Places Together

October 15-18, 1998, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Reasons to Celebrate

October 21-24, 1999, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Making Dreams Come True

October 12-15, 2000, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Together We Can Do So Much

October 11-14, 2001, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: The Power and Success of Associated Efforts

October 10-13, 2002, Camberly Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Sharing the Memory, Shaping the Dream

October 15-19, 2003, Brown Hotel, Louisville. Theme: The Joy of the Journey

October 14-16, 2004, Camberly Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Opening the Doors of Opportunity

October 13-15, 2005, Marriott Hotel, Louisville. Theme: Learning Across a Lifetime

October 12-14, 2006, Marriott-Downtown, Louisville. Theme: Adjusting the Sails

October 11-13, 2007, Marriott-Downtown, Louisville. Theme: Expanding the Core

October 2-4, 2008, Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Celebrating 150 Years of Building Independence

October 15-17, 2009, Seelbach Hilton Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Keys to Success

October 14-16, 2010. Galt House, Louisville. Theme: Crossroads to Opportunity

October 13-15, 2011, Galt House, Louisville, KY. Theme: Running Strong Since 1858

October 11-13, 2012, Galt House, Louisville, KY. Theme: Traveling the Extra Mile

October 17-19, 2013, Galt House, Louisville, KY. Theme: The Universe at Our Fingertips—STEMulating Products for Life

October 16-18, 2014, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Full Steam Ahead!

October 8-10, 2015, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Setting the Stage!

October 6-8, 2016, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Bold...Strong... Together

October 12-14, 2017, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: A Daring Adventure

October 4-6, 2018, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: From History to New Horizons

October 10-11, 2019, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: The Future Belongs to Everyone

October 7-8, 2020: Virtual Meeting. Theme: Better Together

October 6-8, 13-15, 2021: Virtual Meeting. Theme: Learn Your Way

October 5-7, 2022, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Empowered

October 4-6, 2023, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Theme: Respect, Innovate, Grow